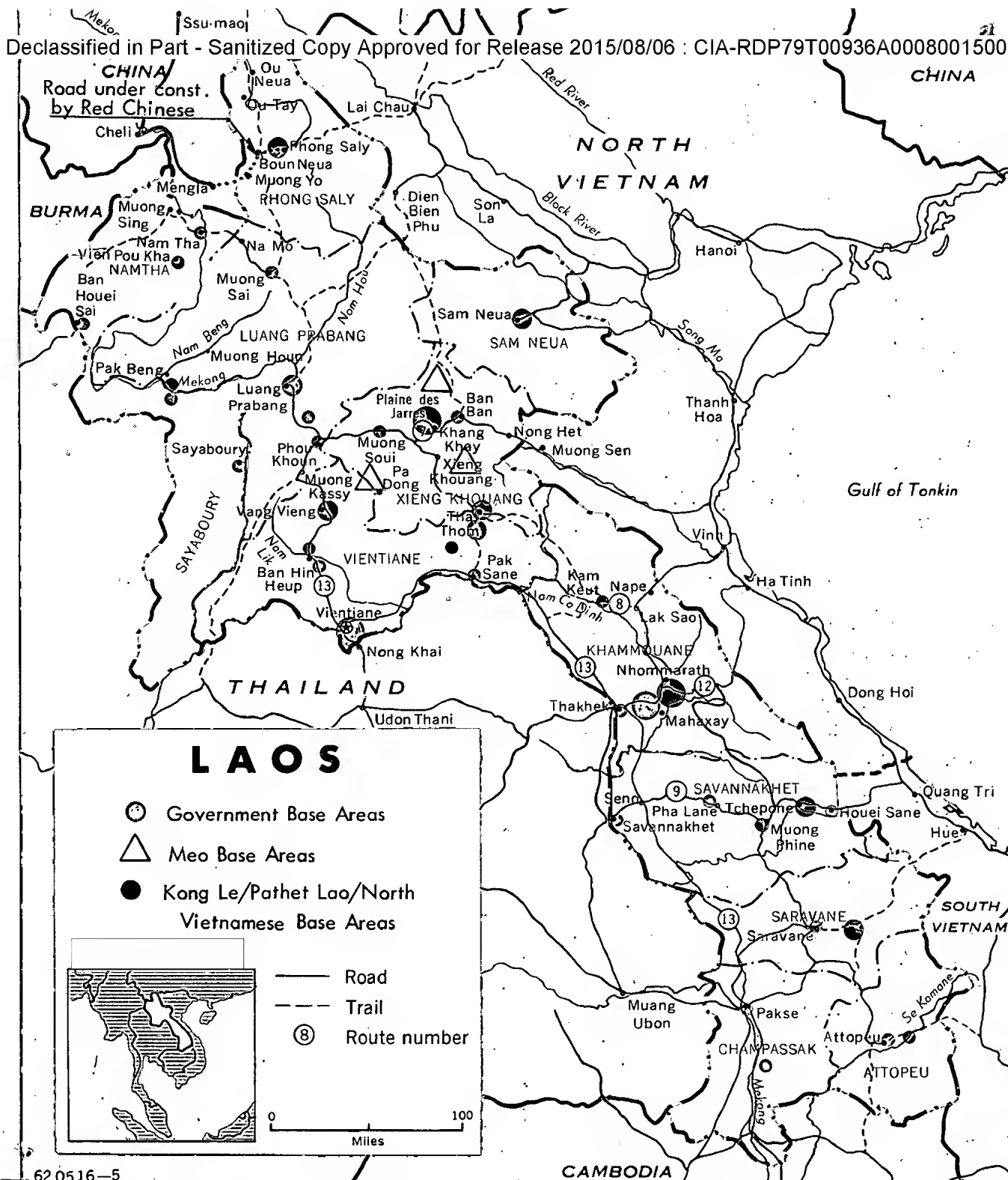


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THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

29 MAY 1962
~~TOP SECRET~~

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1. Laos

a. To show that they are in no hurry for coalition talks, the King has told Souvanna [redacted] that he would receive him next Monday. If this usual Laotian pace continues, little time will be left for anything useful to be worked out before Souvanna's 15 June deadline. [redacted]

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b. Further details on Sunday's action southwest of Nam Tha show that although the enemy did not approach Ban Houei Sai, the Royal garrison there withdrew across the river and reinforcements airlifted to the scene of action to counterattack withdrew without a fight. Evidently MAAG personnel were the only ones to put up a fight. The two US personnel last seen firing a machine gun are still missing. There is still no indication the enemy plans to take Ban Houei Sai, although it clearly would have no trouble doing so.

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c. In the south, there has been no change in the situation for the past two weeks, with activity thus far confined to the usual patrol clashes on the periphery of Saravane, Attapeu and Tha Khek. In the north, pro-Souvanna troops which had been training on the Chinese side of the border are virtual prisoners of the Chinese, who meanwhile are stepping up their logistical support for Communist troops in Phong Saly. [redacted]

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2. USSR-African civil
air negotiations

[REDACTED]

The Soviet-Sudanese civil air agree-
ment is hung up over Khartoum's refusal
to exclude employment of US crews on
flights to the USSR. Meanwhile, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] the UAR refused an urgent Soviet
request made last month for civil air
rights beyond Cairo.

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3. Finland-USSR

[REDACTED]

Finland has been wanting to bring
its small defense establishment up to
snuff with guided missiles and modern
aircraft and will probably use its ruble
credit with the USSR to do so despite
an expected refusal from London to
modify 1947 peace treaty provisions
prohibiting Finnish possession of mis-
siles. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] The
Finns argue that at least token modern-
ization will make it possible for them
to decline a Soviet offer of "assist-
ance" in the event of an international
crisis.

4. Communist China's
jet fighter strength

We are revising downward our estimate of Communist China's jet fighter capabilities on the basis of a restudy [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] which lead us now to believe that the Chinese Communists may have fewer than 25 MIG-19s, rather than the 85 previously estimated, and perhaps no MIG-21s. Aircraft which we had thought [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] to be MIG-21s are apparently MIG-19s, and many of those we had thought to be MIG-19s evidently are lower-performance MIG-17s with intercept radars of limited range. [REDACTED]

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5. Mexican [REDACTED]

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6. Soviets back away from war propaganda declaration



Zorin attempted to justify Moscow's about-face at today's disarmament talks in Geneva on the grounds that events in recent days have worsened tensions in the world, citing West Germany, Laos, and South Vietnam as examples. We consider his return to an earlier Soviet demand that governments signing the declaration adopt legislation outlawing war propaganda to be in line with Khrushchev's statement to Salinger that the USSR must maintain a hard line during the present period of US testing and forthcoming Soviet counter-testing. 50X1

NOTES

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- Secret*
- A. Another research ship is now en route to our nuclear test area in the Pacific. [redacted] 50X1
- B. Castro is no longer permitting visits to the "invasion" prisoners and has suspended deliveries of food and medicines sent by the Families Committee. This is apparently an attempt to get the committee to pay the \$2,600,000 for the first 60 prisoners, released in April. [redacted] 50X1
- C. [redacted] the industrial slump in China. [redacted] it was clear that even at showplace enterprises, production was "at a very low ebb." [redacted] 50X1
- D. The Italians got nowhere last week end when they tried to sell De Gaulle on the Spaak-Fanfani compromise formula for European political integration. [redacted] 50X1
- E. Another West African state, this time Dahomey, has trooped to Moscow in pursuit of military equipment. Official word is the French are being stingy, but there is also growing sensitivity to charges that the government is too pro-Western. [redacted] 50X1
- F. Contrary to a number of indications we have been receiving that the Portuguese were going to take a tough line on the Azores base negotiations, the Portuguese Army Chief of Staff has told General Norstad that he anticipated no particular difficulties. [redacted] 50X1
- G. Late press reports from Manila say that at a luncheon today Macapagal voiced strong support for Phoumi and was sharply critical of US Laotian policy. [redacted] 50X1

DOCUMENT OF INTEREST

I.

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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE